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Conceiving that a list of the price of the most important articles, the produce of the settlement of the River Negro, might be useful to the first settlers in the Falklands, I have drawn up the following list of prices of goods, &c., at Carmen:—

List of Average Prices of the following, at Carmen, Rio Negro, February 1843.

| | £. | *s.* | *d.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Horses, broken-in and trained for the lasso, each | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Mares, each | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| Bullocks ,, | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mules ,, | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Sheep ,, | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Goats ,, | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Pigs ,, | 0 | 8 | 6 |
| Wheat, per fanega, containing rather more than three bushels | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Barley ditto ditto ditto | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Indian corn, ditto ditto ditto | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Onions, per thousand | 1 | 7 | 0 |
| Potatoes, ditto (do not thrive well) | | | |
| Garlic, ditto | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Pumpkins, each | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Melons ,, | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Vegetable marrow ,, | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Salt, per fanega | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Apples<br>Pears<br>Nectarines<br>Peaches<br>Grapes<br>Figs<br>average price per bushel | 0 | 6 | 0 |

## IX.—*Course of the Hume River, from the Hilly Districts to the Junction of the Morumbidgee.* By Captain CHARLES STURT. Communicated by Lord STANLEY.

WHEN, in the year 1838, I made up my mind to conduct a party overland from New South Wales to South Australia, I determined on making my private interest as much as possible subservient to geographical research, by tracing the Hume, downwards, from where it crosses the main road to Port Phillip, to the mouth of the Morumbidgee, at which point it loses the above name and becomes the Murray. The distance being about 260 miles, I was anxious to ascertain the nature of the country along this its unknown course, and by fixing the points of junction of its several tributaries, to complete the survey of the streams falling into the interior from the S.E. angle of the continent.

I accordingly assembled my party at the lowest (highest?) station on the Hume in the month of April, 1838, and commenced my journey by moving along its right bank and following it in a westerly direction into the low and depressed interior. In latitude 34° 48′ S., and in longitude 146° 3′ E., we passed the junction of the Ovens, a small river coming from the S.E., and consequently falling into the Hume on the opposite bank to that along which we were travelling. We had already cleared the hilly country, and now found the river flats backed by extensive plains, traversed by belts of trees, and covered with salsolaceous vegetation. The river held a course rather to the northward of west, the descent being still considerable. About 25 miles below the junction of the Ovens, however, the current in the river became feebler, its waters were turbid, the flats along its banks expanded, and appeared subject to inundation, and detached masses of reeds were scattered over them: these, at length, almost covered the primary levels, and, by the increasing height of the rings upon the trees, we judged that we were pressing into a region subject at times to deep and extensive floods. Accordingly, as we advanced, the reeds closed in upon us, and we moved through them along narrow lanes or openings which the natives had burnt, the reeds forming an arch over our heads, and growing to the height of 18 or 20 feet. Our progress was impeded by hollows, and the flats were intersected by channels for carrying off the back waters from the extremity of the alluvial flats.

On the 23rd of May, in latitude 35° 52′, we were suddenly stopped by a small junction from the N.E., which the natives (numerous hereabouts), called the "Delangen." They informed us that the country to the N. was under water, as indeed its appearance indicated, and that the country in front of us was impassable. It was in truth an open expanse of reeds, into which the Hume directly led. In the event, therefore, of our being unable to proceed to the N.W., it would here become necessary for us to cross the river; but, as I wished to ascertain the nature of the country upon my right before I determined on this step, I sent my old follower Frazer into it, who reported to me that it would be idle to attempt a passage with drays, for that it was traversed by deep creeks full of dead timber and masked by reeds, and that the further he proceeded, the softer did the ground become under his horse's feet. We were therefore obliged to cross the Hume a little above the junction of the small stream which had stopped us. On the left bank, however, we were still in the midst of reeds, through which we could not have pushed but for the narrow lanes made in them by the natives. We could not, however, approach the river for two days, and when we again came upon it, it was just issuing from a vast marsh; its waters were muddy, and its channel considerably diminished. Instead, however, of holding a course to the westward, the Hume at this point suddenly changed it to the eastward of S., flowing through a barren country of white tenacious clay, above the reach of flood, but of the most gloomy character. It had just been fired by natives: the trees were scathed to their very summits, and the trunks of those which had fallen were smoking on the ground.

On the 20th of June, the river still running to the eastward of S., we suddenly found ourselves stopped by a deep river of some size, most beautifully fringed with acacia of a dark green hue. This was the Goulburn, which we had struck about a mile above its junction with the Hume, in latitude 36° 3′, and in longitude 144° 58′.* On crossing the Goulburn, I found that some other over-land party had been here before me, and at the junction saw that Mr. Bonney had cut his name on one of the trees. It appeared therefore that he and Mr. Hawden had taken the line of the Goulburn on their way to South Australia: instead, however, of keeping the banks of the Hume, these gentlemen crossed the hard and extensive plains which surround the hollow through which the Hume flows. On the other hand, I kept to the river, encamping on its banks every night, sometimes without firewood, the weather being cold and frosty. We traversed a country subject to flood, of a blistered soil, and heavy for the teams to drag through, and we at length once more got into the region of reeds.

On the 30th of June we sighted Mount Hope, of Sir Thomas Mitchell, bearing S.W., distant about 14 miles; and lost sight of it on the 5th of July, bearing S.S.E., distant about 18 miles. At this point we could see some lofty trees to our left; but we were in the midst of reeds, which extended over an immense flat, bounded in the distance by a dark belt of Eucalypti, the intervening space being one entire marsh. On the 9th of July we came upon a small river, with steep earthy banks, which I presume to be the Whimera of Sir Thomas Mitchell, on whose tracks we got the following day, about 2 miles to the westward of its junction with the Hume. I could not observe any impression of horses or cattle to indicate that any one had been there, but discovered the marks of horses' hoofs lower down the Hume, at a division of its channel where it forms several flat and reedy islands.

I made a report of this journey to Sir George Gipps, on my return to Sydney, but I did not at that time forward any chart; I have now, however, the honour of enclosing one.

I should state that the river is navigable along its whole course. The flats, which extend to some distance on either side of it on its upper branches, are rich in soil, and are better adapted for cattle than for sheep. Many fine stations might indeed be formed even to the junction of the Delangen; and, as in the cases of the Morumbidgee and the Macquarrie, I have no doubt the settlers, as they want pasturage, will push down to them. I do not, however, think that any of the country from the Goulburn to the junction of the Morumbidgee is available for any purpose. The only object gained by me in pursuing the river was the survey of it, and the connexion of its higher branches with its lower ones, as adding more correct data for a chart.

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* The MS. has 146° 58′, evidently a clerical error.—ED.